



Reconnecting Communities: Highways to Boulevards

Guideline Development Workshop #4

May 9, 2023. 1:00-2:30pm



Reconnecting Communities: Highways to Boulevards Program

\$149 million was established in the FY 22/23 State Budget to reconnect communities divided by transportation infrastructure. RC:H2B will issue a “Call for Communities” and award to those in need to address the historical harm to their communities.



The proposed Green TI, parkland served by a small road, would replace a mile of the Terminal Island Freeway in Long Beach, California. M. Lindner/CNU

Call for Communities

7 PROGRAMMATIC GOALS (PARAPHRASED)

1. Restore Community Connectivity
2. Provide matching funds for federal grants
3. Removing barriers associated with transportation infrastructure
4. Improve travel options
5. Opportunities for implementation of affordable housing
6. Avoid displacement effects
7. Advance Community-Based transportation planning



Meet the Team

PRESENTERS AND RC:H2B TEAM MEMBERS:

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RC:H2B Program Manager
Caltrans Division of Local Assistance

NAILA SHARMEEN

Active Trans. Planner - Implementation
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Office Chief, Office of Innovative Programs
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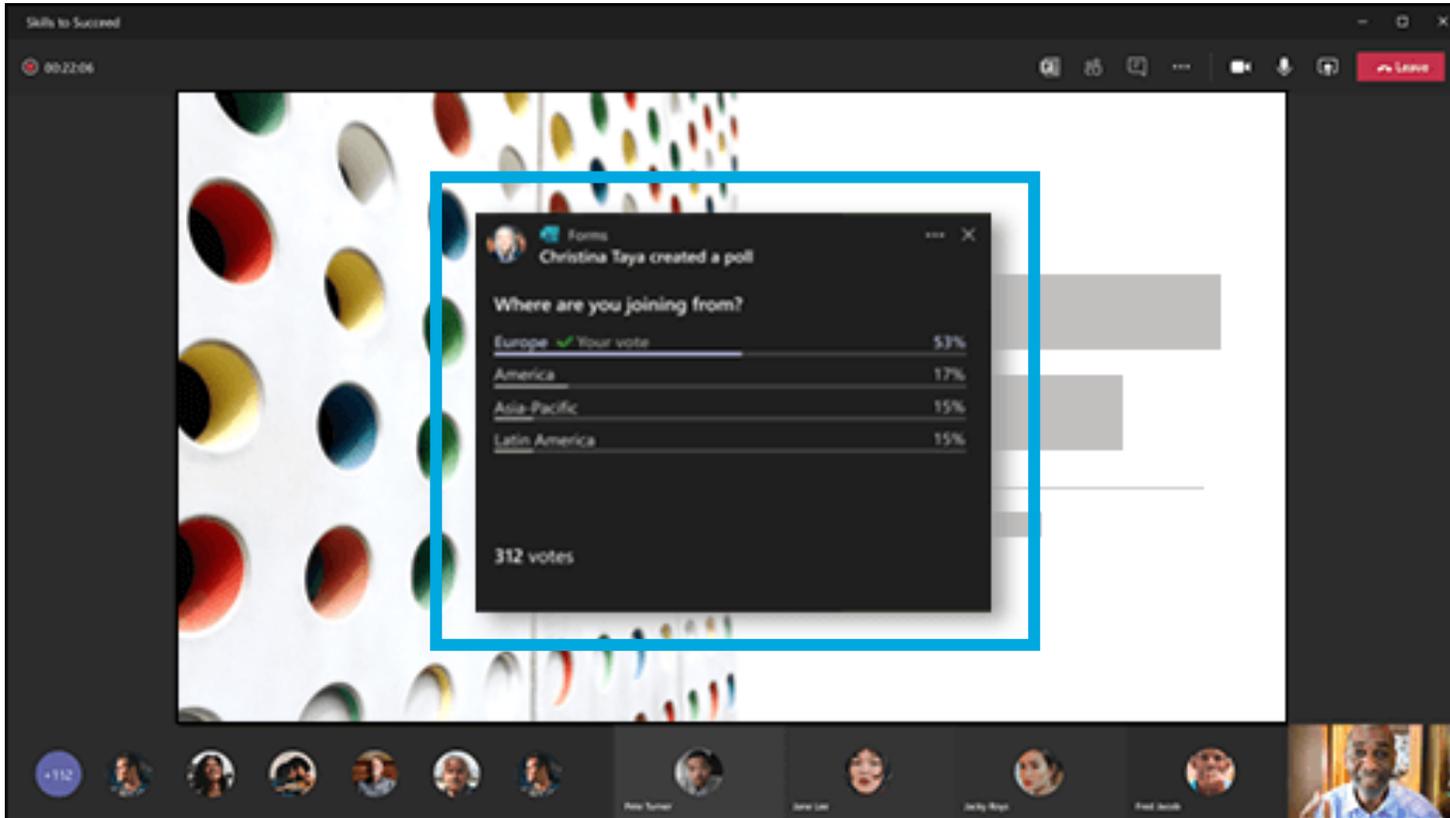
ABBY JACKSON

Caltrans Housing & Homelessness Solutions Lead
Caltrans Division of Transportation Planning

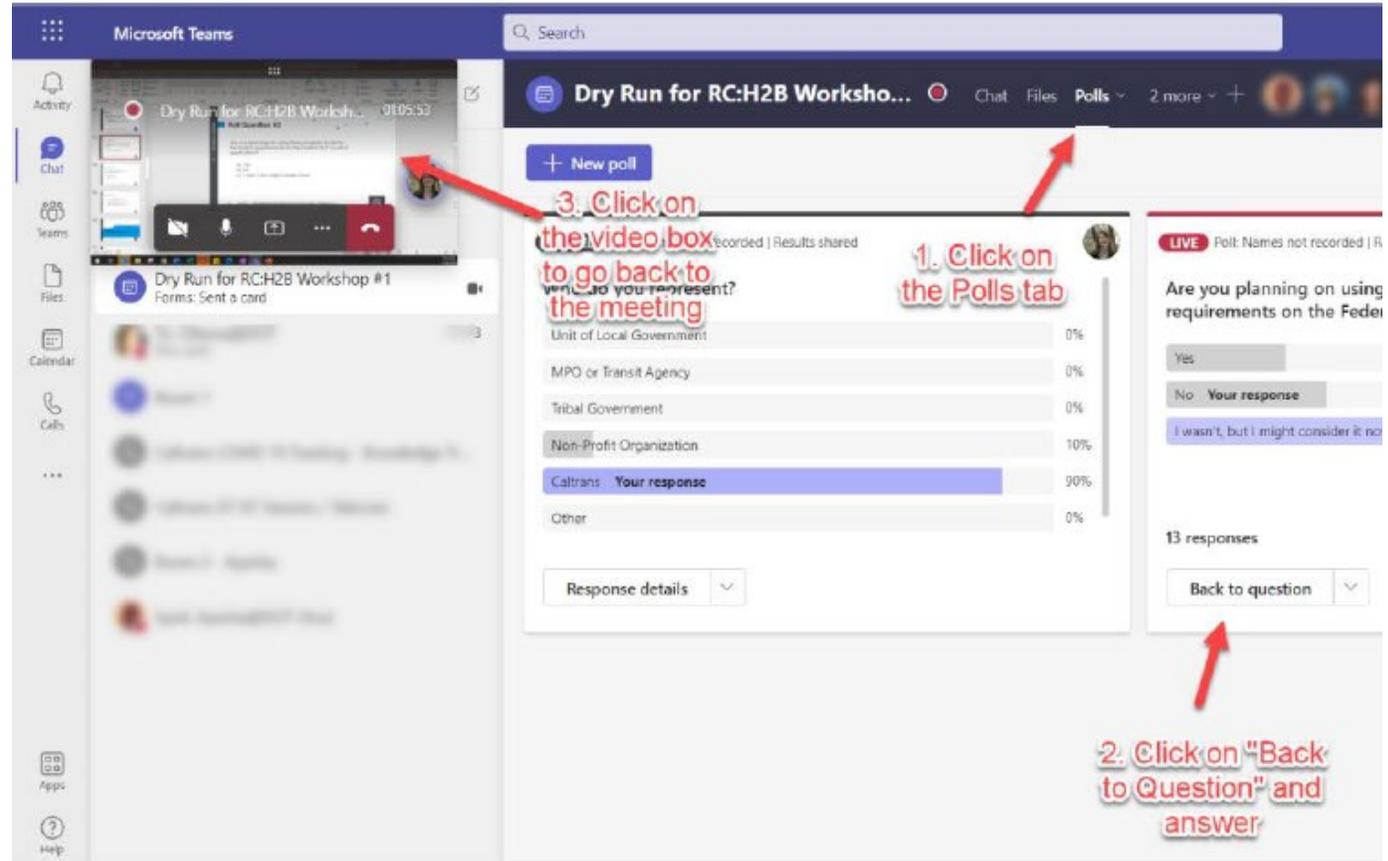
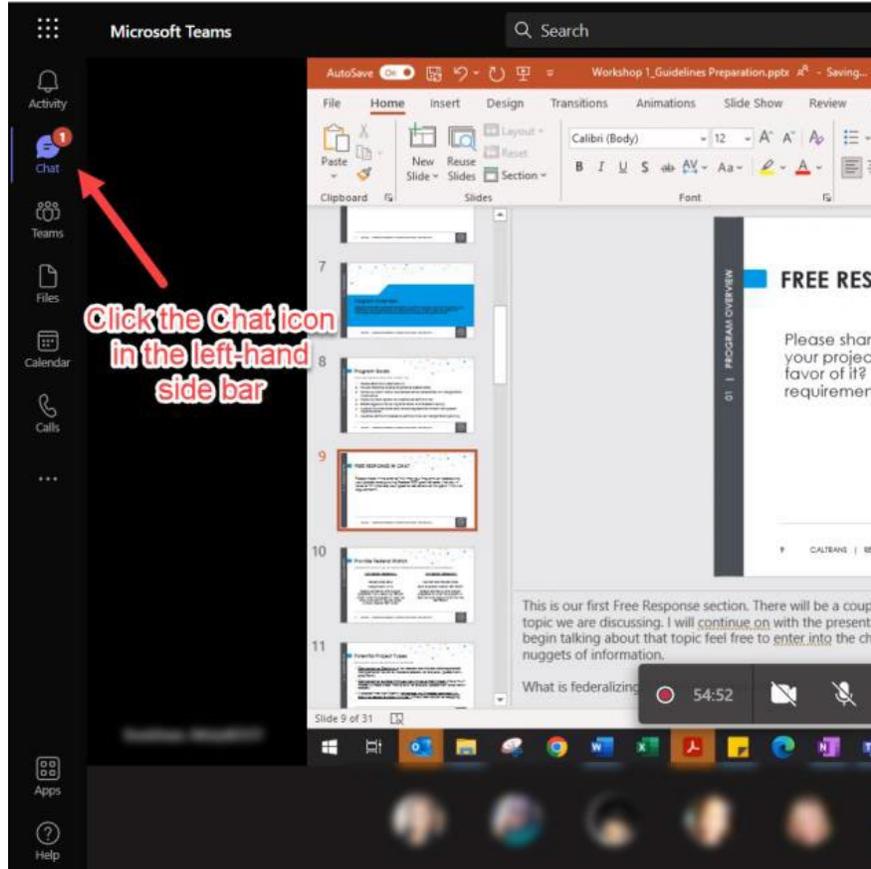
ALYSSA BEGLEY

Office Chief, Active Transportation and Complete Streets Office
Caltrans Division of Transportation Planning

How to Participate in Polls – Desktop



How to Participate in Polls – Web



How to Participate in Polls – Mobile

The screenshot displays a mobile application interface for a meeting. At the top, a poll question is visible: "Are you planning on using these program funds for the match requirements on the Federal RCP Cycle 2 applications?". Below the question are three radio button options: "Yes", "No", and "I wasn't, but I might consider it now.". A "Submit Vote" button is located below the options. The poll results are shown as follows:

Yes	23% (3)
No	30% (4)
I wasn't, but I might consider it now.	46% (6)
13 responses	

The interface also includes a chat window at the bottom with a message from Bradshaw, M: "Well it sounds like that's". The meeting participants are visible at the bottom of the screen, including Misty@DOT B., Chavez, Gret..., Begley, Alys..., Misty@DOT B., and Emily@DOT G.



Agenda

01 – Update Since Workshop #3

02 – Early Phases

03 – Application Process

04 – Evaluation Criteria Revisited

05 – Summary and Next Steps



Poll Question #1

Who do you represent?

- a) Unit of Local Government
- b) MPO or Transit Agency
- c) Tribal Government
- d) Non-Profit Organization
- e) Caltrans
- f) Other

Updates Since Workshop #3

Previous Workshop #3 was held on March 7th.

We made a programmatic change that we presented at Workshop #3. Presentations and materials from Workshop #1 and #2 contain information from the old direction and are not reflective of the current program vision.

Draft Guideline Status

WHERE WE ARE AT IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

- Final Draft Guidelines have been posted to the website. (date 4/28)
- Updated to include comments, clarification and Feedback received.
- FAQs have also been posted to the website to further clarify questions we have received.
- Final RC:H2B Program Guidelines will be released at the Call for Communities. **Last day for comments – Fri May 12th.**

Reconnecting Communities: Highways to Boulevards
Program Guidelines
Final Draft

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Final Draft

Description

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Overview of Changes

High level List of Sections that have been Amended since the previous available draft.

- **Urban, Rural, and Corridor Definitions**
- **Proposed Improvement Area (previously called “Project Area”)**
- Added staff salaries and indirect cost rate information
- Added **Grant Agreement** and Sub-Contracts Section
- Added Delivery Methods Section
- **Revised Evaluation Criteria**
- Expanded and clarified different definitions as applicable.

Grant Categories

BASED ON 2010 US CENSUS BUREAU DESIGNATION

Three communities will be awarded under three grant categories:

1. Urban – Communities with populations of 50,000 or more. Urban clusters with at least 2,500 but fewer than 50,000.
2. Rural – Areas with less than 50,000 people.
3. Corridor – Linear geographic facility that support the needs of multiple underserved rural or urban communities. The corridor does not necessarily need to be the eligible transportation barrier facility but must at a minimum be impacted by the eligible facility.

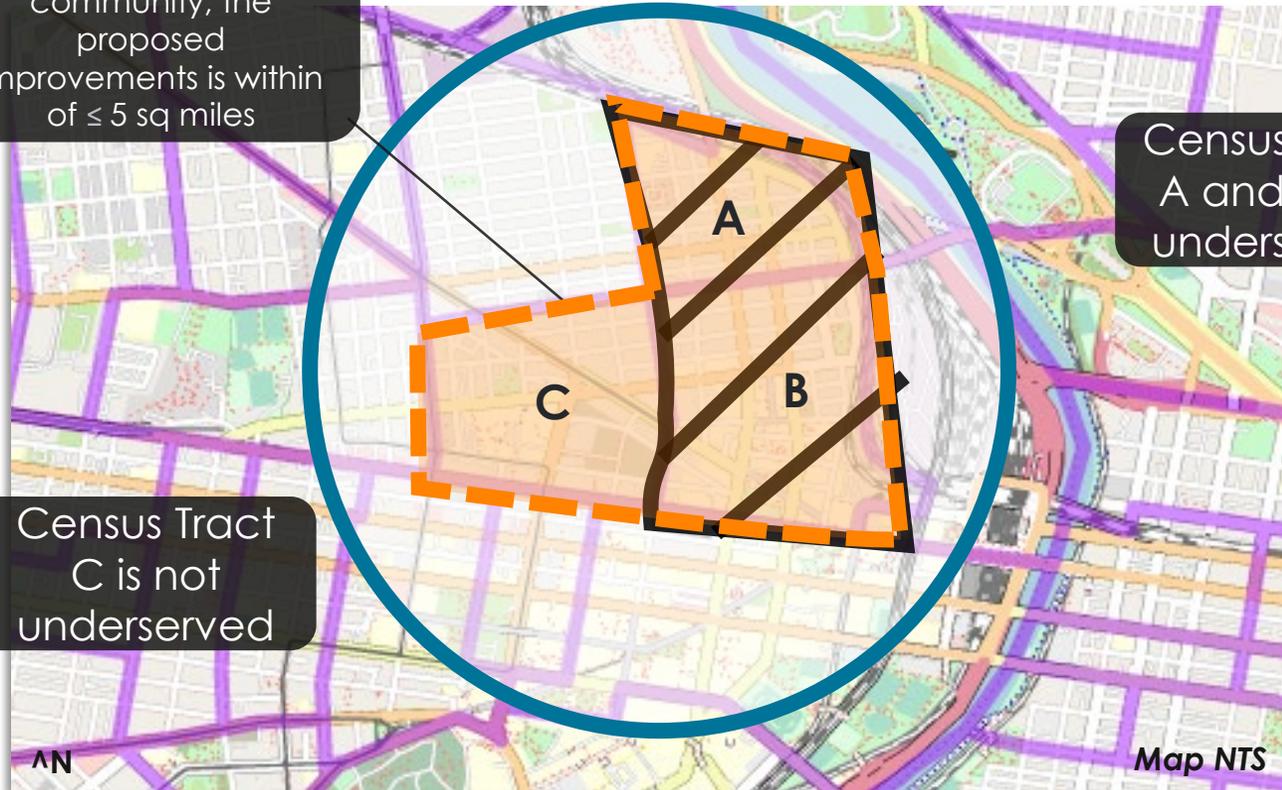
Proposed Improvement Area

Example of *Urban*

To benefit a community, the proposed improvements is within of ≤ 5 sq miles

Census Tracts A and B are underserved

Census Tract C is not underserved



LEGEND

-  Community(ies) to benefit
-  Proposed Improvement Area
-  Census Tracts
-  Underserved census tract

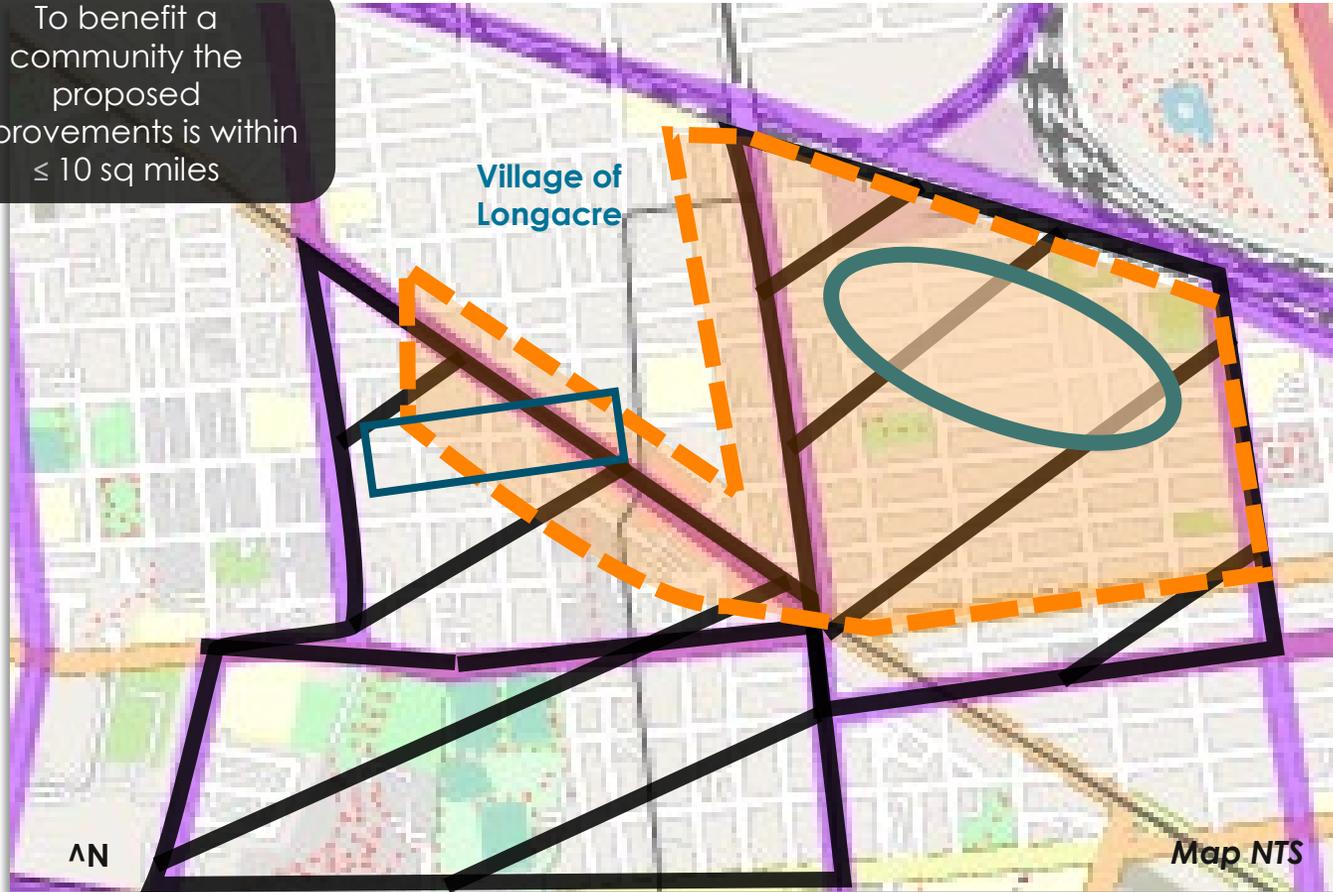
Proposed Improvement Area

Example of *Rural*

To benefit a community the proposed improvements is within ≤ 10 sq miles

Compare the Category:

- Larger area, accounting for lower population density than urban



LEGEND

- Community(ies) to benefit
- ▭ Proposed Improvement Area
- ▭ Census Tracts
- ▨ Underserved census tract



Proposed Improvement Area

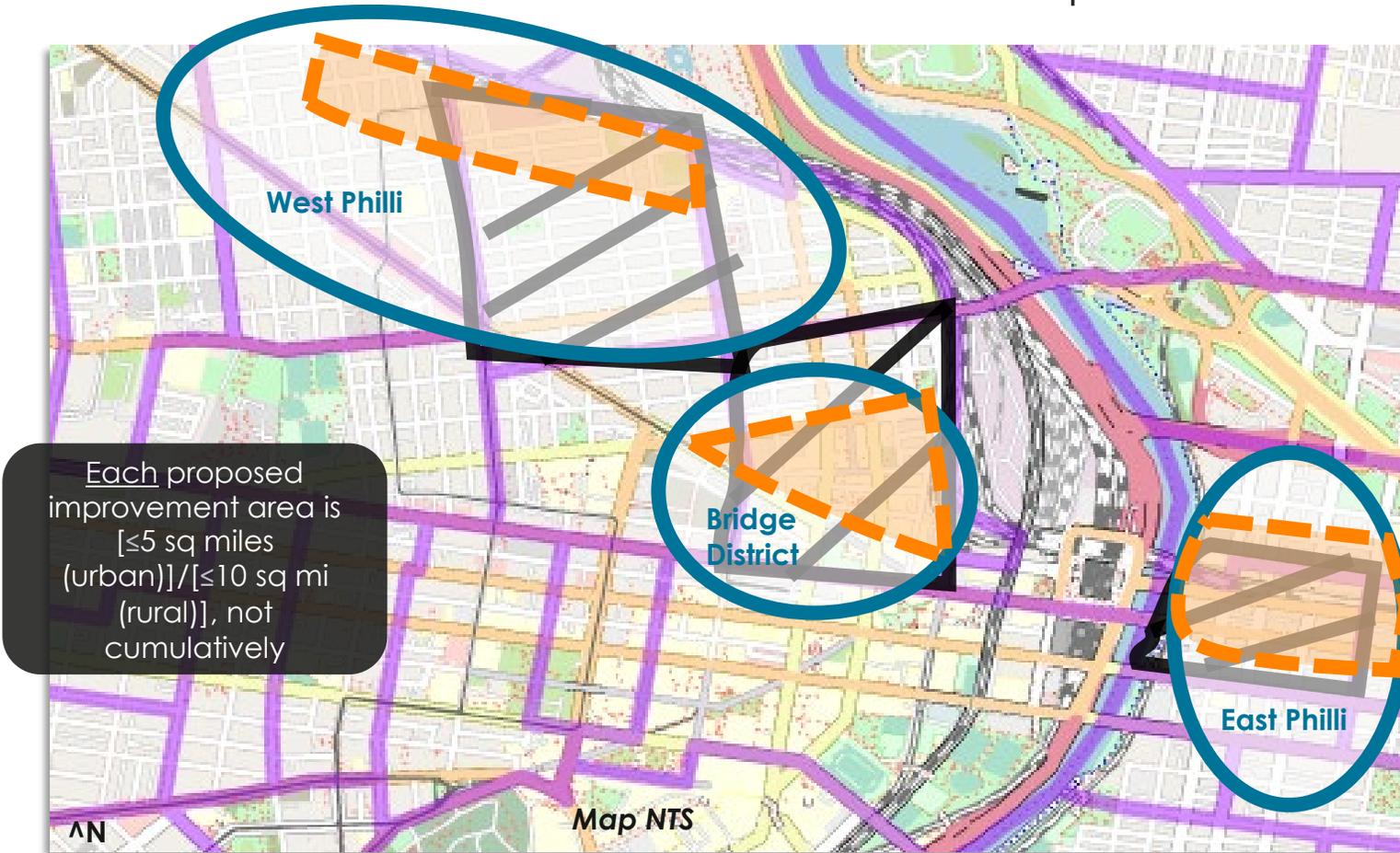
Example of *Corridor*

Compare the Category:

- Improve more area
- Spread money out
- More partners involved

LEGEND

-  Community(ies) to benefit
-  Proposed Improvement Area
-  Census Tracts
-  Underserved census tract



Reconnecting Communities

OVERVIEW OF THE TWO SEPARATE PROGRAMS - STATE AND FEDERAL

State Funded: RC:H2B

- Administered by Caltrans DLA
- 1 time competitive award to a “community” based on need.
- 100% State Funded funding source
- Legislative goal to “provide matching funding for potential federal grant funds”
- Awardees may also work with Caltrans to submit a proposal for RCP Cycle 3.

Federal Funded: RCP

- Administered by US DOT
- Multi-Cycle Pilot Program
- Competitive awards for Planning and Implementation Projects.
- Cycle 1, Caltrans issued a call for nominations, submitted 3 applications as a lead, partnered on 21, and provided 22 letters of support.
- Cycle 2 Caltrans will issue call for support/partnerships shortly.

Poll Question #2

What Grant Category are you considering?

- a. Urban
- b. Rural
- c. Corridor (Urban)
- d. Corridor (Rural)
- e. Corridor (Spans Rural and Urban areas)
- f. Unknown

Please note, there is only one Corridor Category to select from. This breakdown shown in this poll is for the interest of the team on what is a likely distribution

Questions

Please place any questions in the chat at this time for any of the topics we just discussed:

- a) Changes to the Draft Guidelines
- b) Grant Categories (Urban, Rural, Corridor)
- c) Proposed Improvement Areas
- d) State vs. Federal Reconnecting Communities Programs

Early Phases

- Eligible Applicants Refresher
- Agreement Process
- Community Readiness Phase
- Planning Phase

What we hope to achieve with this program and how do we get there through this process.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants may include, but not limited to:

- Units of local government
- Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)
- Local and regional agencies
- Joint powers authorities
- Federally recognized Tribal governments
- Transit agencies

Lead Applicant

- Must have an existing Master Agreement with DLA.
- Act as grant administrator, but may identify a separate implementing agency for any phase.
- Caltrans can not be a lead applicant

Co – Applicant

- Must be an eligible applicant.
- If on the SHS, Caltrans must be a co-applicant.

Implementing Agency

- Must be Lead or Co-Applicant (eligible applicant)
- Must have an existing Master Agreement with DLA.

Partner

- May or may not be an eligible applicant
- Provide value to the project in a meaningful way

Agreement Process

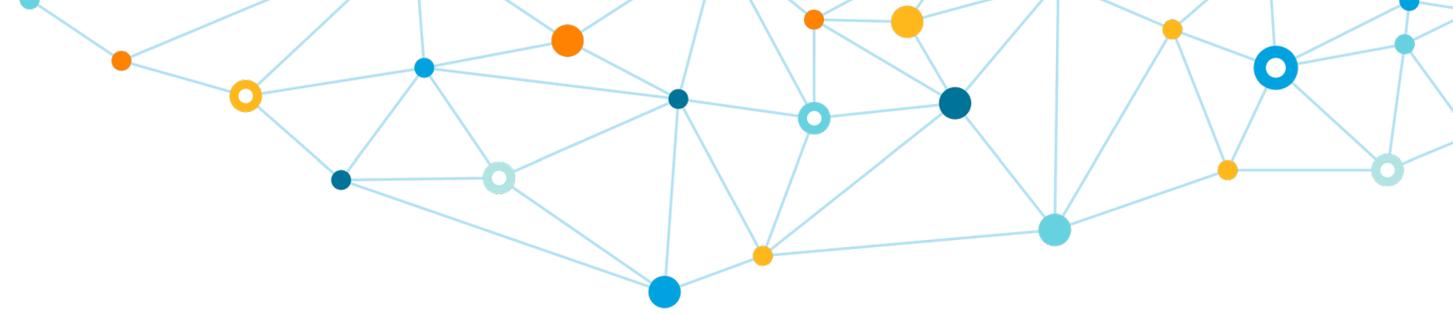
WE WILL UTILIZE THE DIVISION OF LOCAL ASSISTANCE (DLA) MASTER AGREEMENT

Lead Applicant must have an existing Master Agreement, or in process of obtaining one, with DLA at time of proposal submission.

- Caltrans can support Agencies by building communication bridges with potential co-applicants and partners to round out administration needs.

Implementing agency must have an existing DLA Master Agreement prior to execution of a PSA for their associated phase or phase component. Not needed at time of application submission.

PSA to be executed prior to each phase to disperse funds on an established scope, schedule, and budget.



Project Phasing



Community Readiness

FIRST PHASE AFTER AWARD



Planning Phase

TYPICAL PHASE FOLLOWING COMMUNITY READINESS

Deliverable will be a Planning Document. Will include the full scope of the needs the community identified. Including non-transportation related scope.

Planning Phase

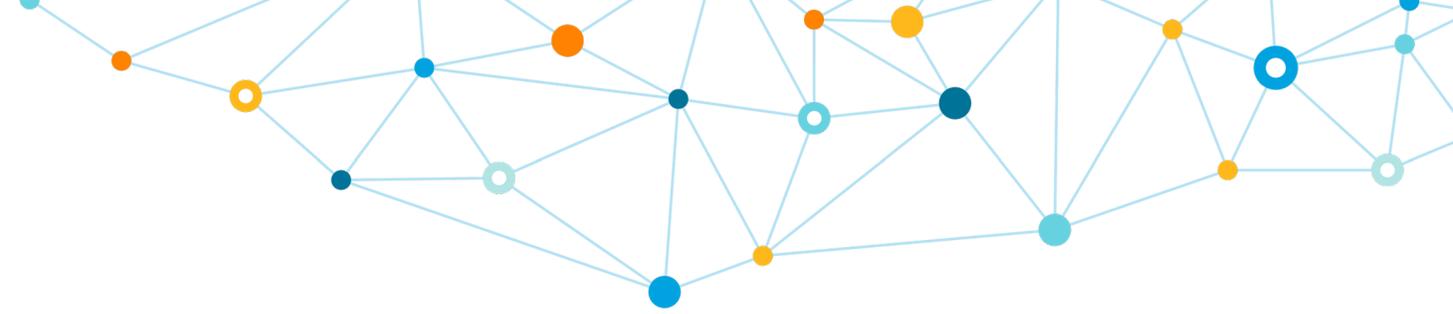
Establish a Scope, Schedule and Budget for the next phase, most likely PA&ED.

May identify some components that may be delivered independently of the larger Construction Scope.

Poll Question #3

Does the lead applicant on your proposal team have an existing Master Agreement with Caltrans DLA?

- a) Yes
- b) No, but we/they are in process to obtain one
- c) No, but we will work to get one before submittal deadline
- d) No, we do not have one



Poll Question #4

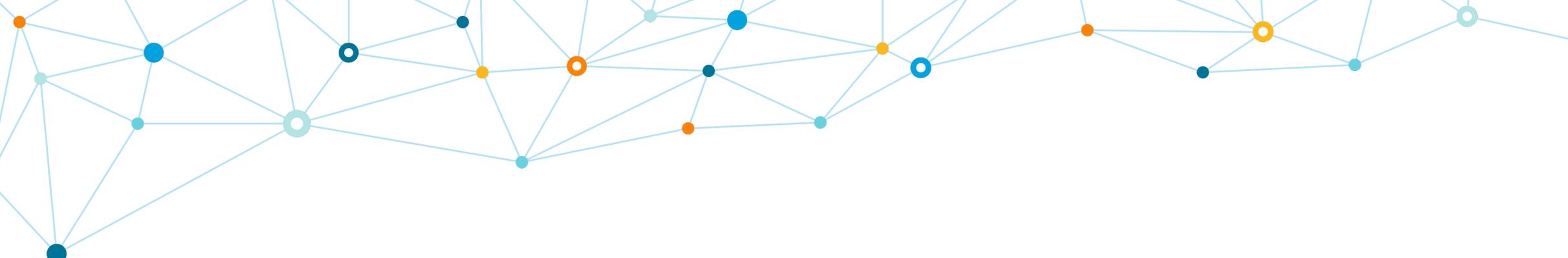
For your proposal have you completed any of the earlier phases of work? Select all that apply?

- a) No early work completed
- b) Planning
- c) PA&ED
- d) PS&E
- e) ROW

Questions

Please place any questions in the chat at this time for any of the topics we just discussed:

- Eligible Applicants Refresher
- Agreement Process
- Community Readiness Phase
- Planning Phase



Application Process

Initial Screening Self Assessment.

Online application form and attachments will be posted to website.

Applicants will have the option to attend Open Office Hours.

Application Workshops will be held to guide applicants in the application process.

Initial Screening Self Assessment

OPTIONAL TOOL FOR APPLICANTS TO ASSESS IF THEIR PROJECT MAY BE A GOOD CANDIDATE FOR THIS GRANT

- **Checklist** provided in the Program Guidelines
- **Pre-Screening Questions** provided in the Program Guidelines
 - These are optional but it is encouraged to answer these questions prior to meeting during Open Office Hours.
- **Optional Open Office Hours** will be held during the Application Preparation Phase.
 - Attendance at these Open Office Hours does not affect the competitive nature of the application.
 - Note that these are virtual.

Online Application

Online Form using Smartsheet.

- Link will be available from the RC:H2B program website.
- Provide word document of form to applicants as a resource.
- Applicants **shall not** submit the Word doc.
- Upload Required Attachments.
 - A – Narrative
 - B – Map – Proposed Improvement Area
 - C – Underserved Criteria
 - D – Partnership Structures

Resources and Technical Assistance

- Resources to aid in preparation of your application will also be available on the website.
 - Application instructions
 - Checklist
 - Resource Document
 - Updated FAQ
- We will host a series of application workshops as well over the Summer to provide a technical overview to what the application process entails.

Poll Question #5

What tools do you have available to create a proposed improvement area map?

- a) Overlay scaled shapes on online mapping tool (i.e. google Maps...etc.)
- b) AutoCAD or Drafting Software
- c) GIS Software
- d) Adobe Illustrator
- e) Other

Questions

Please place any questions in the chat at this time for any of the topics we just discussed:

- a) Initial Screening / Self Assessment
- b) Open Office Hours
- c) Online Application Form
- d) Attachments and Resources



Evaluation Criteria Revisited



Evaluation Criteria

Type of Score	Factor	Max Score per Factor
Eligibility	Applicant Role	0 (Pass/Fail)
	Benefit to Underserved Community	0 (Pass/Fail)
Alignment	Removing Barriers and Reconnection	25
	Partnership	25
	Community Involvement, Justice, and Prosperity	30
	Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) and Addressing Housing Needs	10
	Climate Action and Resilience	5
	Displacement Avoidance	5
Sum of Total Possible Points		100

Underserved Community

COMBINATION OF BOTH STATE AND FEDERAL TOOLS/DEFINITIONS

STATE METRICS

Must pick at least 1 metric to qualify

- By income disparity (80% AMI or less)
- By health disparity (Healthy Places Index 3.0)
- By environmental justice disparity (CalEnviroScreen)
- Native American Tribal Lands

FEDERAL METRICS

Must pick at least 1 metric to qualify

- By environmental justice disparity (Historically Disadvantaged Census Tracts/Justice40)
- By income disparity (Areas of Persistent Poverty)
- Many other federal metrics endorsed by the federal RCP

Supplemental Resources to Manage Change

- Pre-screening set of questions and open office hours – to help assess if this program is right for you
- Resource Document: best practices and tools for each evaluation factor to help potential applicants for building the narrative to support how a proposal aligns best to program goals.

Assessing Alignment & Community Readiness

Top three biggest factors of the six total:

- 1. Removing Barriers and Reconnection (25 pts)** – understanding historical harm
- 2. Partnership (25 pts)** – intent and capacity to work with those most impacted by disconnection
- 3. Community Involvement, Justice and Prosperity (30 pts)** – scoping equitable and meaningful planning and implementation processes

Assessing Alignment & Community Readiness

Remaining Alignment factors:

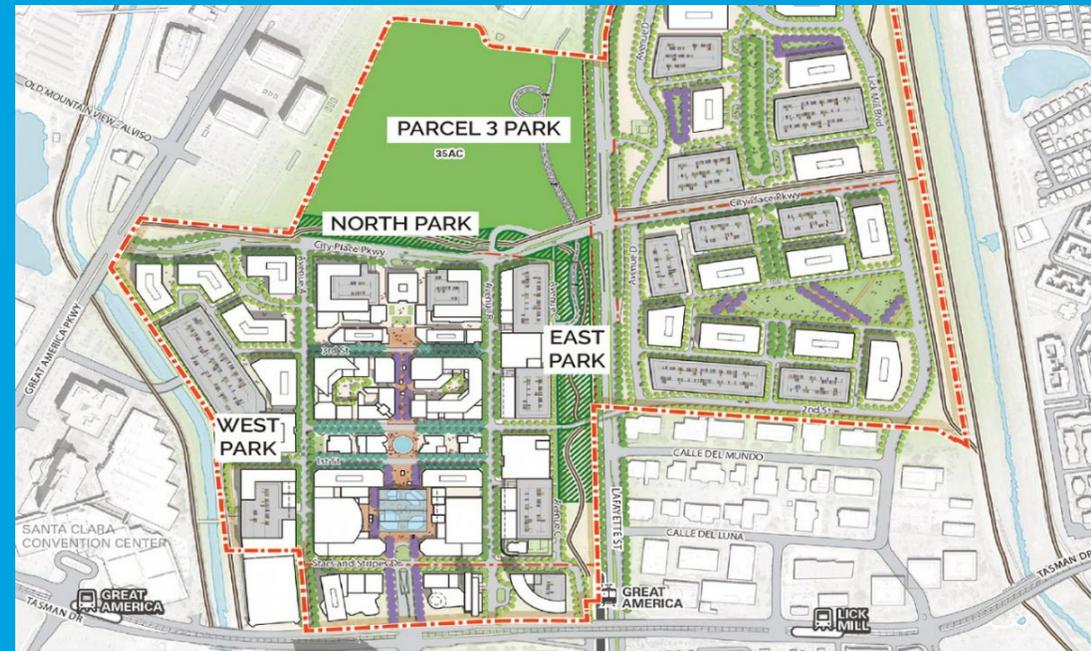
- 4. Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing and Addressing Housing Need (10 pts)** – understanding opportunity and needs, involvement
- 5. Climate Action and Resilience (5 pts)** – understanding vulnerabilities and climate targets, building resilience and not undermining targets
- 6. Displacement Avoidance (5 pts)** – understanding vulnerabilities and supporting existing or new efforts to mitigate direct and indirect, immediate and long-term displacement

Questions

Please place any questions in the chat at this time for any of the topics we just discussed:

- a) Evaluation criteria
- b) Underserved definitions and metrics
- c) Historical harm, partnerships, community involvement
- d) AFFH and housing, climate action and resilience, and displacement avoidance

Summary and Next Steps



Summary

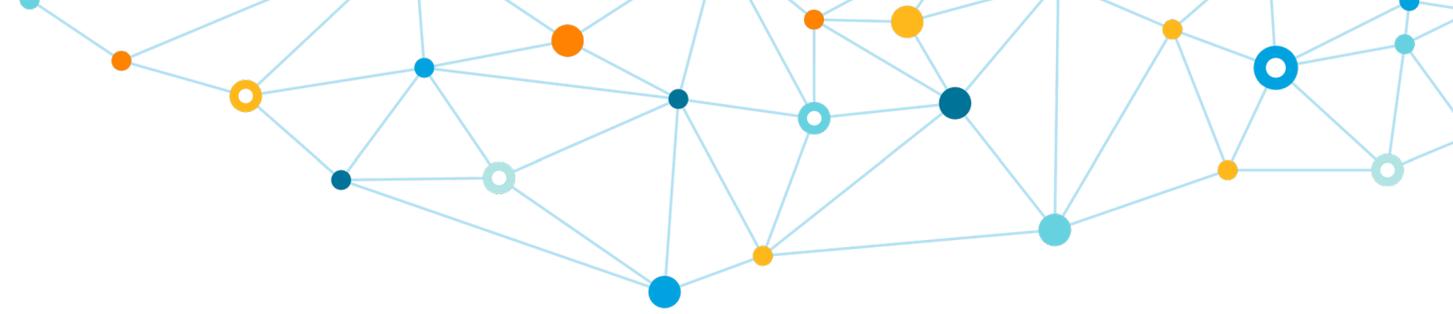
- Takeaways and Items to Consider:
 - Community driven approach.
 - Proposals may or may not have a defined Scope, Schedule, and Budget at time of submission.
 - Think about the holistic need of the community.
 - Get partnerships and potential co-applicants on board.

Next Steps

- In approximately 1 week, a recording and presentation slides will be posted on the website.
- Please submit any questions or comments on the Final Draft Guidelines via CRCP@dot.ca.gov email address by Friday, May 12th.
- FAQ document will be updated to the website in approximately two weeks.

Next Steps

DRAFT Milestone	Date
Last Day to Provide Comments	May 12th, 2023
Call for Communities/Proposals	Late May/Early June 2023
Application Workshops (2-3)	Summer 2023
Open Office Hours	Summer 2023
Proposal Application Submittal Deadline	Late Summer/Early Fall 2023
Awards Announcement	Late 2023/Early 2024
Federal RCP Cycle 3 Applications Due	Fall 2024 (estimate)



■ Poll Question #6

Do you have a proposed community in mind for this grant opportunity?

- a) Yes!
- b) Maybe
- c) No, we don't

Important Links

- The Reconnecting Communities: Highways to Boulevards Program webpage: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/local-assistance/fed-and-state-programs/rc-h2b>
- Join our mailing list to receive information on the RC:H2B Program: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/ruSZ8zX>
- The Federal Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program Website: <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/reconnecting-communities>